

23 April 1956

The NIS Program

The National Intelligence Survey Program, established by NSCID No. 3, is concerned with the collection, coordination, and publication of basic intelligence on all foreign countries and areas needed for high level operational and strategic planning, national estimates, and policy determination. This program has been in full operation for a period of seven and three-quarter years, and what has been done during that period in fulfillment of the NIS mission is set forth graphically in the accompanying tables and charts. Essentially, nearly 60% of the total world coverage has been completed, most of which is on areas of high priority for planning and estimate purposes. Approximately 2,700 NIS sections have been published. NIS Gazeteers have been produced on 85 of the 103 NIS land areas, and comprise nearly two million geographic names. An active maintenance program is underway on published elements on both the NIS and the Gazeteers.

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During 1955 the NIS Program continued to increase in stature as the means of providing the basic intelligence on critical world areas required by the Government in national security and foreign policy consideration. As reported by the Task Force on Intelligence Activities under the chairmanship of General Mark W. Clark, The National Intelligence Survey is an invaluable publication which provides the essential elements of basic intelligence on all areas of the world. While its production involves an extensive and expensive effort, all members of the Intelligence community derive an immediate benefit from the contributions they make to it and profit from the final product. There always will be a continuing requirement for keeping this survey up to date.

Notable accomplishments during the past year which have served to further increase the value of the NIS Program are: 1) expansion of coverage to meet requirements of psychological warfare and USIA programs; 2) inclusion in the NIS Program of a unit presenting biographies of all key personalities in foreign areas; 3) development of new NIS supplements treating exclusively with International Communism, and 4) production as a special project of the NIS on Antarctica to meet an urgent requirement of the Antarctica Working Group of the Operations Coordinating Board for intelligence to serve as a basis for formulating policy with respect to U. S. claims in that area.

*Special Studies**Working folder - NIS - & ~~the~~ NIS Program General Briefing folder*

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The NIS Program over-all is progressing on schedule in accordance with current priorities established by the Joint Chiefs of Staff, with increased emphasis on production of the highly important Chapter I (Brief) and the maintenance revisions of published NIS.

Enclosures:

1. NIS Production Status, 5 World Areas, 31 Mar 56
2. Percent Completion All Nis Areas, 31 Mar 56
3. Contributor Production Record FY-49 thru FY-55
4. Number Sections Published and in Process FY-49-55
5. Cumulated Production of Gazetteers FY-49-55
6. Map showing Status of NIS Production 30 Jun 55

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